



Amity Foundation

when people gather with good intent



Services for former lifers (Mentors)
To: Board of Parole Hearings
Presented By Ozell Johnson and Doug Bond

sanctuary
advocacy & public policy
holistic curriculum
research & evaluation
resource & community development
restorative justice
reconciliation
renewal
remembrance
resilience
resolution
mindfulness
teaching communities



Amity Settings

We consider ourselves a Teaching and Therapeutic Community. It is our mandate to teach community.

- 184 bed residential campus in Los Angeles
- 60 bed residential campus in Vista, California
- 139 bed residential campus for men, women and families in Tucson, AZ
- 39 Transitional housing units for families in Tucson, AZ
- Community services for over 200 homeless women in New Mexico
- Nearly 2,500 men and women served in 5 prisons
- Employment services located throughout Southern California
- Just In Reach jail project serving 300 chronically homeless men and women in LA County





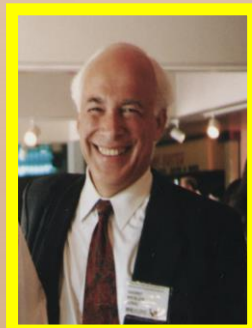
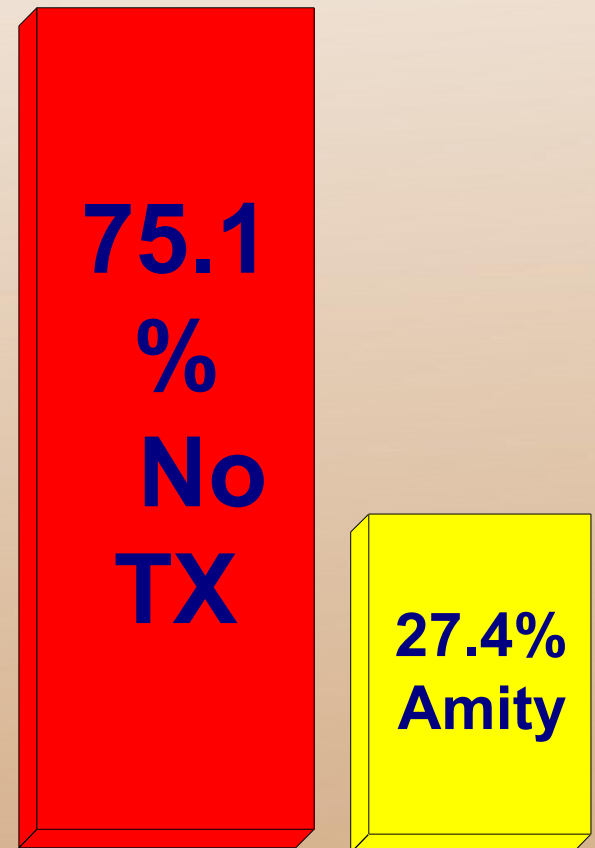
Amity Students Today

- Are dealing with major challenges in their lives.
 - Primarily Native American, African American, and Hispanic men, women, and children from impoverished backgrounds = inadequate parental resources, poor schools, dysfunctional neighborhoods, negative attitudes towards work, lack of opportunities for work (high unemployment areas).
 - Childhood and adult trauma
 - Health issues
 - Addiction
 - Criminal records that limit employment opportunities
 - History of violence
 - Little or no family support
 - Lack of employable skills and vocational training



Reduction in Recidivism

- Comparisons of inmates who did **NOT** participate show that **3/4ths** of them were back in prison three years after release.
- Only **1/4** of the Amity participants who completed the in prison and community project were back in prison.



From a study conducted by
H. Wexler, Ph.D. 1998
NDRI funded by NIDA



Amistad de Los Angeles

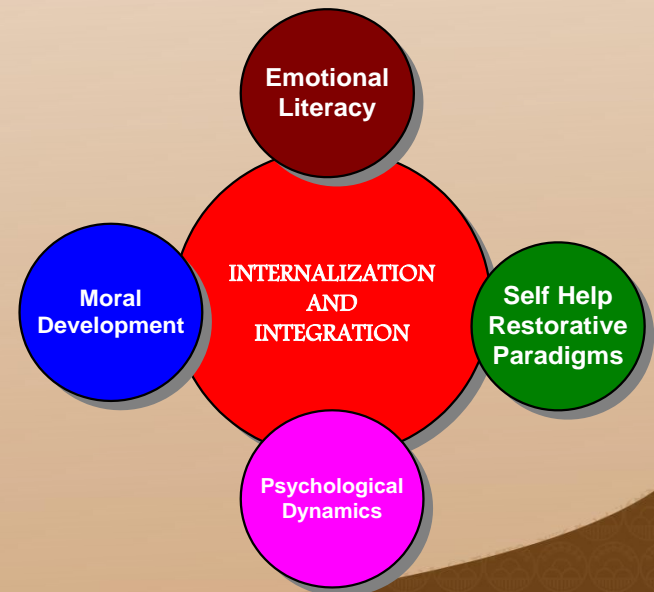
- Amity has a lifer focused project with 60 former lifers (mentors)
- Amity started working with lifers at RJ Donovan Prison in 1991
- Amity is currently working to open a campus with a dedicated focus for lifers





Service for Former Lifers

- Reentry Services
- Self Help Restorative Paradigms
- Family Reunification
- Emotional Literacy
- Moral Development
- Job Development Services
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Continuance





Community

Teaching and Therapeutic Community

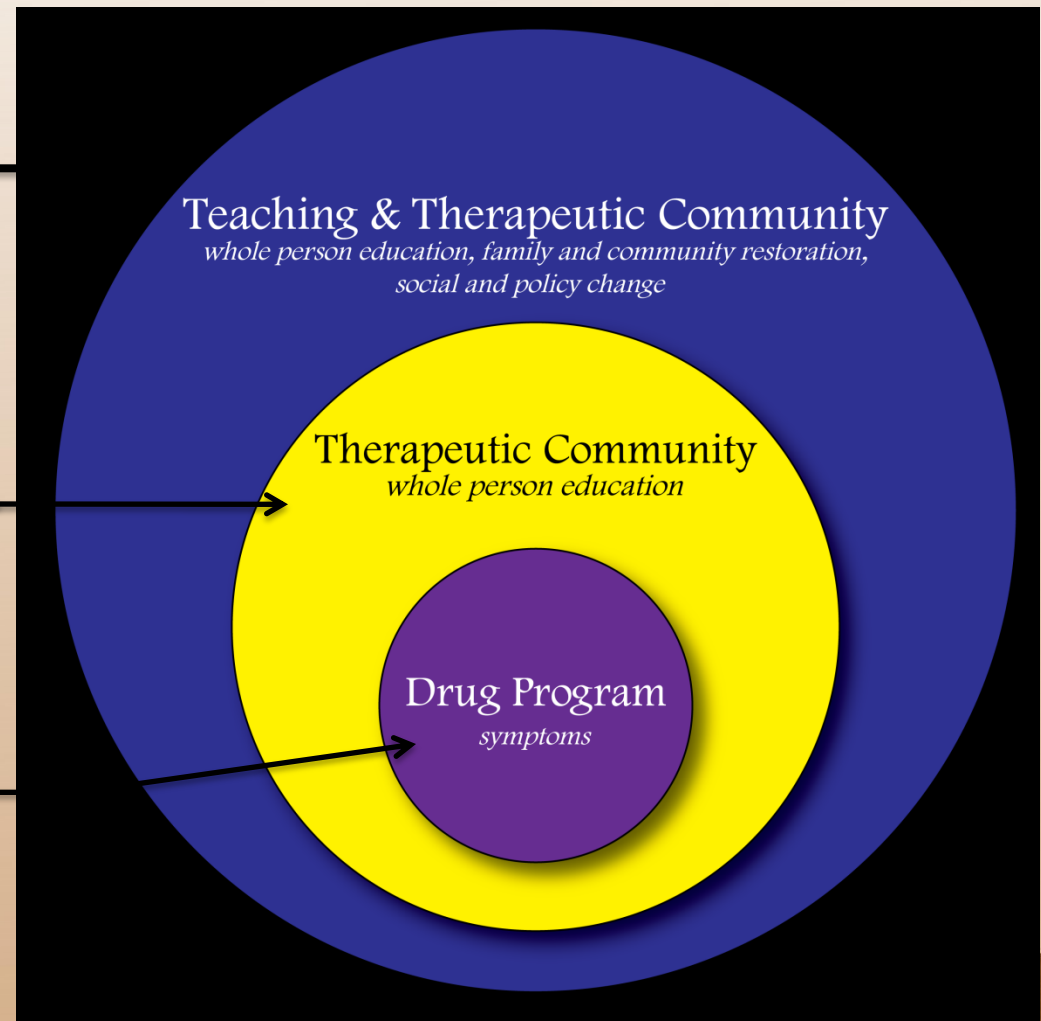
Whole person education, family and community restoration, social and policy change

Therapeutic Community

Whole person education

Drug Program

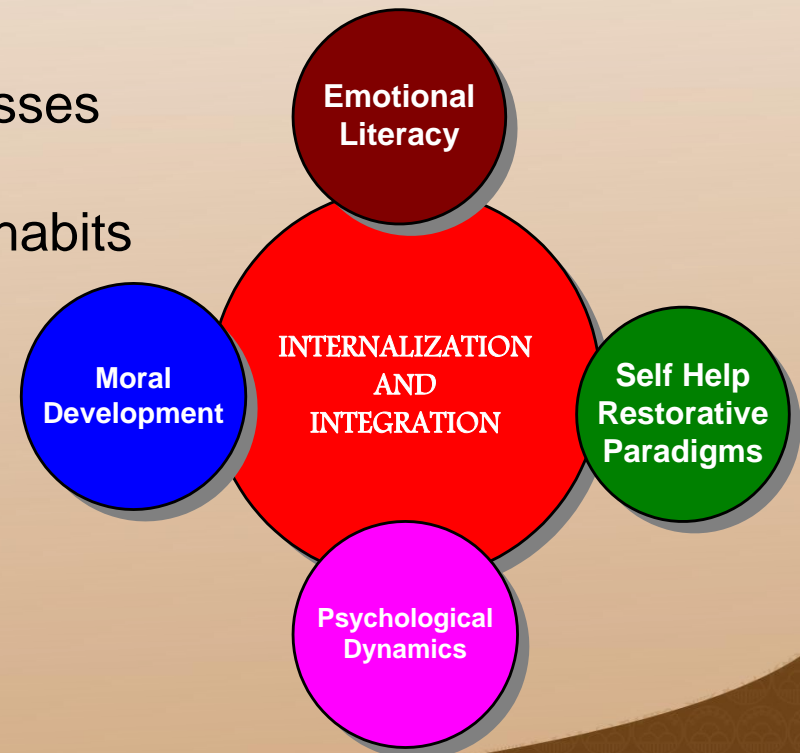
Symptoms



Social Services + Social Justice = Social Progress



- All students in the community engage in curriculums designed to foster personal growth, emotional literacy, and social responsibility
- Transformative self-actualizing processes are inclusive of family reunification, sustainability training, healthy eating habits and regular exercise





Social Services + Social Justice =Social Progress

Economic growth has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and improved the lives of many more over the last half century. Yet it is increasingly evident that a model of development based on economic progress alone is incomplete. Economic growth alone is not enough. **A society that fails to address basic human needs, equip citizens to improve their quality of life, protect the environment, and provide opportunity for many of its citizens is not succeeding.** We must widen our understanding of the success of societies beyond economic outcomes. Inclusive growth requires achieving *both* economic and social progress.



Social Progress Index 2015



- “Remarkable changes in lifestyle are possible when individuals live and work in a community where every element has an educational and therapeutic impact on their process.”

~George De Leon, 2000





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